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BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND

THE FAVORITE amusement of preparation fanatics, just now, is comparing the military power of Belgium with that of Switzerland, an amusement that is unobjectionable, and might even be useful, if correct conclusions were arrived at. Switzerland, like Belgium, is small. Switzerland's army, is raised on a more Democratic plan than the Belgian army was.

But the notion that the Belgians could have protected themselves against Germany had they had an army as good as Switzerland's and twice as big is pure imagination, without any evidence to support it.

France had an army much more than the maximum desired for Belgium under the above proposition, but Germany is many miles into the richest part of France. The Serbian army more than met the conditions, but was not sufficient to protect Serbia. The Russian army, which is certainly more of an armament than Belgium could attain has not kept the Teutonic Allies out of Russia.

Anybody can see with half an eye that it is not possible for Belgium to maintain an army sufficient for protection against her neighbors.

It is probable that Belgium would be much better off at this moment if she had had no army. With a very small army she could have fought for honor, and with the largest one she could command would do no more.

A small state in an isolated situation may be able to defend itself with a small army against the aggression of distant neighbors. A small state with a small army situated in the midst of Europe, cannot defend itself.

SUBSTITUTES FOR WAR

THERE ARE lots of people, and very competent persons who are too busy to understand. Such are especially numerous among those who wish to follow Col. Roosevelt right into Berlin.

One of these, of a milder type, and not quite ready to take Berlin by storm, suggests, in the World, some substitutes for war; among which are the following:

Well, in support of its diplomatic protest and without making war, our government might:

- Sever diplomatic relations with Germany.
- Revoke the exequaturs of all German consuls.
- Abrogate all German treaties.
- Forbid all German commerce.
- Seize all German ships in our waters.
- Intern all German aliens.
- Sequester all German property.
- Confiscate and sell enough of the sequestered property to indemnify the families of Americans unlawfully slain on the Eastland and elsewhere.

There are substitutes for a punch in the jaw. You can kick a man's dog, pull his nose, or throw mud at his front door. But first, to keep the peace, you must know that he believed in substitutes. All of these substitutes would in fact lead directly to war.

A NATIONAL MERCHANT SERVICE

IF THE American people want a merchant marine, they would better build it themselves. Then it will be open on even terms to all American shippers. The business will be done at cost. The enterprise will not be handicapped by capitalistic piracy, mergers, stock waterings and other forms of looting.

The private capital of America has not built a merchant marine, though it has had many years in which to do the work.

The facility is not supplied, and it is the duty of the government to supply it, not for profit, but for service. If the government sought profits, there would be no Panama Canal, no post-office worthy of the name, no life saving service, no agricultural experiment stations.

A nation isn't run for profit, but for the comfort and happiness and well being of its citizens. These conditions permit zones in which private profit is permitted. But the right to take a profit never can have precedence over the right of mankind to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

AIR NAVIES

GRAT AS this war is, one problem has had up to this time no objective demonstration. What part are air ships, those lighter and heavier, to play in naval combats of the future?

Most thoughtful men are convinced that they ought to play a very considerable part in naval fights not too far from the coast. They may even prove a decisive factor. The power of the air craft to drop large quantities of high explosives from above is of great possibilities. If the German and British fleets meet in a grand conflict in the neighborhood of the coast of either country, it is probable the air fleets will be there.

THE SHAKERS.

The first Shakers in America were the converts of "Mother Ann" Lee, who was born in Manchester, Eng., 159 years ago to-day, Feb. 23, 1736. She was the daughter of a blacksmith and in her girlhood was employed in a cotton factory. She married Abraham Stanley, a blacksmith, and the pair joined a company of religious enthusiasts who claimed apostolic gifts of vision, revelation and prophecy, and preached the speedy second coming of Christ. Their physical agitation during their meetings led the "madly" to refer to them as "Shakers," a name afterward generally applied to the sect. Ann became the leader of the band, and was confined in prison for a time because of her disinclination to wear clothes when in a state of pious ecstasy. In 1774 she received a revelation that she was to carry the light to America, and sailed with her husband and eight followers. The blacksmith soon abandoned both his wife and his religion, and the prophetess assumed her maiden name of Lee and with a few disciples founded a Shaker colony near Troy, N. Y., where she died in 1784. The first Shaker meeting house was built in 1785 at Mount Lebanon, Columbia county, N. Y. The

Shakers now have a number of communities scattered over the United States.

\$14,000 FIRE DAMAGE IN FALLS VILLAGE

Falls Village, Feb. 29.—Fire in the general store of M. G. Marzay yesterday did damage amounting to \$14,000. The building in which the store was located and an adjoining building owned by George Hall and occupied by Joseph Dunn, a barber, were burned. The other tenant was Francis Prague upstairs. The losses are covered by insurance. Fire apparatus from Salisbury and Canaan was brought here on the New York Express. For a time it was feared the village would be burned as the wind was blowing hard. The fire started when Mrs. Marzay was at her stove. She left the stove covers off and the flame from the grate leaped out and ignited surrounding woodwork.

There will be no session of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange on March 7, Mardi Gras.

FUNERAL DESIGNS AND BOUQUETS
JOHN HECK & SON.

Furs bought now are a profitable investment

Firstly, you may count on at least six weeks more of cold weather.

Secondly, you will probably want Furs with your new Spring Suit.

Thirdly, you will not be able to duplicate these prices on Furs next season, on any fur garments.

Gross Fox Muff and Scarf, was \$150.00
\$100.00

Gross Fox Muff and Scarf, was \$110.00
\$65.00

Sable Fox Muff and Scarf, was \$ 75.00
\$45.00

White Fox Muff and Scarf, was \$150.00
\$90.00

White Fox Muff and Scarf, was \$100.00
\$65.00

Taupe Fox Muff and Scarf, was \$125.00
\$65.00

Battleship Gray Fox Set, was \$ 85.00
\$50.00

Separate Muffs, Beaver and Skunk, were formerly \$35.00; fine ones, **\$20.00**

White Thibet Sets, for children, twenty-five sets, were formerly \$5.00, now **\$2.00**

Fur Coats—

Hudson Seal, 40 inches long, full ripple, hand-some Skunk collar, was \$150.00
for **\$100.00**

Black Muskrat Coat, 40 inches long, full sweep, was \$150.00
for **\$90.00**

Caracul Coat, 50 inches long, was \$100.00
for **\$50.00**

Baby Pony Coat, 50 inches, full flare, with Chinchilla collar and cuffs, was \$185.00
for **\$100.00**

Do not delay. Second floor.

Closing out, to

make room for Spring Stock

Tailored Suits, forty of them, **\$25.00** great value

Salt's Plush Coats, eight of them, small sizes, 50 inches long, **\$10.00**

Winter Coats, twenty-five of them, nice and warm, **\$10.00**

Corduroy Sport Coats, twenty-five at **\$3.95**

Serge Dress Skirts, all wool, fifteen only, **\$1.95**

Silk Dresses, twenty of them in variety, **\$8.50**

The above prices are made regardless of former selling prices. Second floor.

The D. M. Read Co

Established 1857

17TH BIRTHDAY OF FAMOUS U. S. NAVAL WARRIOR

This is the seventeenth birthday anniversary of one of the most distinguished of Uncle Sam's naval officers, Rear-Admiral French Ensign Chadwick, retired. It is true that the famous sea warrior's biography sets forth the fact that he served on the Maribhead in pursuit of the Confederate steamers Florida and Tallahassee in the Summer of '64, but that was shortly after the embryo admiral had passed his fifth birthday. Admiral Chadwick was born in Morgantown, W. Va., on Feb. 29, 1844, and hence has been cheated out of three-fourths of the birthdays that normally fall to the lot of humans. It was just half a century ago that he received his commission as ensign and became a full-fledged officer of the United States Navy. He was in command of the New York and chief of staff of Admiral Sampson during the Spanish-American war, and participated in the most important engagements in the Atlantic during that brief conflict, and was promoted "for eminent and conspicuous conduct in battle."

Admiral Chadwick's name appears on a number of volumes, including "Temperament, Disease and Health," "Causes of the Civil War," and "The American Navy." The latter volume, published last year, is a highly interesting contribution to naval history. Rushing in review the great wars of

the world, from the Greco-Persian and Roman-Carthaginian conflicts to the European struggle of to-day, Admiral Chadwick reaches the conclusion that the possession of great military power is of little moment as compared with naval strength. "The navy in all countries has ever been, and as far as we can now judge, ever will be, a pre-eminent instrument of government," writes Admiral Chadwick. "It was through her navy that Greece destroyed the power of Persia; Rome that of Carthage; the Allies at Lepanto that of the Turks; England that of Holland and later that of France in America; the navy of France, in turn caused the relinquishment of Great Britain's sovereignty over the thirteen colonies which formed the United States, and a generation later it was the British navy which made the effort of the great Napoleon the 'baseless fabric of a vision.'" He adds that the navy of the Union crushed the Confederacy by cutting off supplies, that it made possible the speedy victory over Spain, and that now "Germany's every sea outlet is closed by the British fleet, so superior in number to the German, and German commerce on the sea is for the time entirely swept away."

Protective Association Fund Now \$3,542

The latest returns from the financial campaign of the Bridgeport Protective Association show that a total of \$3,542.58 has been collected. Corrected figures from the Eighth district indicate that the helpers and leaders there have procured \$50 for the fund.

The New York Giants started spring training at Marlin, Tex.

The D. M. Read Co

Established 1857



Will it please you to sit?

Among new pieces for bedroom or boudoir is a day-couch with adjustable head which can be raised or lowered to any height desired. This is broad, easy, and with a few pillows will make a delightful lounging place. The covering may be a cretonne or chintz and a quaint valance is the finish. **\$10.50**

Wing Chairs of the Charles II. period are of mahogany with fine cane panels. Very handsome specimens, chair and rocker. **\$21.50 each.**

A pair of "Adam Chairs" are of dark mahogany with cane panels and in the center of the back panel is an oval "fan" medallion. The covering of the seats is the fashionable old blue, in broad velvet. Arm chair and rocker, **\$16.50 each.**

A Windsor Armchair has a rush seat oddly woven, and a high "comb-back." It is a very comfortable chair and of artistic outline. **\$17.75**

A "Fenimore Chair" is on the Windsor type and has at the right arm a little round table for writing, holding heavy books, cup of tea, or smoker's outfit. There is a very convenient little drawer into which small things can be hustled at a minute's notice. This fine chair is **\$27.50.**

Two beautiful Chippendale Chairs for the hall are of hand carved mahogany, the backs 48 inches high, showing the highest workmanship. The legs are "bandy" the feet claw and ball. Armchair, **\$48.00**
Straight chair, **\$42.00**

An Empire Sofa of pure and classic type has grooved mahogany on the gracefully curved arms and feet. The back above the upholstery work is quite plain showing four panels of crotch mahogany exquisitely shaded. The covering is of brown demin. **\$88.00**

The familiar and well-beloved Boston Rocker comes back to us. It is of solid mahogany with scroll arms and the top of the back has a quaint head roll of dark blue demin. just right. **\$25.00**

Spring Novelties

For Skirtings

The New Cotton Goods, those that come under the head of "Washables" are exceedingly attractive and will appeal to the sensible woman who always like such material for general wear.

Imported Shepherd's Checks, wool finish, three different sized checks, 48 inches, **39 cts**

White Gabardine with narrow black stripe, 36 and 38 inches wide, **59 cts**

White Repp with black stripe, very stylish and attractive, 38 inches, **50 cts**

Novelty Corduroy Stripe, black and white, medium weight, 38 inches wide, **\$1.00**

Main floor, Wash Goods, north aisle.

Writing Paper

A novel and attractive paper is in a "Continental Stripe" evenly lined, and easy to the pen. The white has a narrow gilt edge on paper and envelopes. The colors, in pink, blue, lavender, buff and gray have borders in deeper shades of same.

25 cts a box

St. Patrick's Day Post Cards, Tallies and Place Cards ready Stationery, main floor.

In the China Store

Awaji Ware. All lovers of Japanese porcelains will be delighted with this pattern which is new to us. It is dark blue, opaque but very lustrous, and has a spray of white hawthorn for decoration. Plates, bowls, jugs, vases and other odd pieces are shown.

A quaint Birdhouse, a regular little bungalow with a tiled roof and a portico, is of pottery and can be hung from a stout nail or screw. A pretty home for Madame Bluebird or the Wren family. **\$3.00**

Pottery Birdbaths, intended to stand in the garden or lawn are serviceable enough to stand any weather. With or without pedestal. **\$8.00 up**

Basement.

Lessons in Basketry

and other fancy paper work

It is wonderful to see the number of beautiful articles woven out of nothing but paper rope. Probably there are a good many homes in which it will be desired to change decorations this Spring and pretty things at small expense are always needed. New scrap baskets, lamp bases, vases and flower holders. Consider too, that there are original ideas for place cards, favors and table decorations.

Lessons free

Commence now

In the basement.

The D. M. Read Co

Established 1857

RADFORD B. SMITH

FAIRFIELD AVE. VARIETY STORE BROAD ST.
CO-OPERATIVE—CAR FARE FOR CUSTOMERS
PROFIT SHARING WITH EMPLOYEES

OUR WEDNESDAY SALE

At 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ c—Yard wide percales, very handsome.
At 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ c—Genuine Lockwood unbleached muslin.
At 50c—Real Stillson wrenches.
At 9c—All colors house paint.
At 10c—Extra heavy socks for men.
At 8c—Special kinds of padlocks.
At 8c—Stiff cuffs to protect sleeves.
At 8c—Ladies' and children's aprons.

Doctor Kirtley To Be Olivet Speaker

The Neighborhood association has not been content with bringing to this city Madam Hudson-Alexander, who gave such a splendid song recital in the ball room of The Stratfield, Monday evening, but has added to the list of entertainers Dr. James Kirtley.

Dr. Kirtley was the only person on the Chautauqua list of 1915 to be re-engaged for the season of 1916. The musical number of the evening will be furnished by Mrs. Collie Morton of this city. Mrs. Morton will sing two numbers and her many friends in the city who have appre-

ciated her well trained lyric soprano voice are gratified to know that she is to re-enter a field in which she has won such distinction. No tickets are sold for this evening.

MRS. LAVERY ILL

Mrs. Sarah Lavery, mother of Attorney Hugh Lavery, is seriously ill at her home, 1361 Noble avenue. The immediate family has been summoned to the bedside. The family physician is in constant attendance.

The United States does not want war, but it will probably, he some time before our citizens ask permission of foreign governments before venturing to go out in row boats.

THE ALLING RUBBER CO.

1126 MAIN STREET